

Community Newsletter

December 2021 Edition



Note from Mayor Meghan F. George and Chief Kevin Kauchek



Safety remains the number one priority for Lakewood – we hear this from our residents daily and we share this overarching goal for our community. Recently, some high-profile crimes have occurred in our city, and we want to use this opportunity to provide an update on safety efforts in Lakewood.

As you probably are aware, we have seen a rise in violent crime nationwide recently, and local communities in Ohio have suffered from the same disturbing trend. In late September, the FBI released its annual uniform crime report. The FBI's data showed that after reaching a low point in violent crimes in 2014, our nation has seen a concerning uptick in these most concerning crimes – and that has been especially true over the past two years.

Unfortunately, Lakewood is not immune to the national trends, as shown by the recent high-profile robberies. We can assure you that our police are fully aware of these trends – we are studying them to understand their impact for our city, and then taking affirmative steps to address these trends.

When crimes like robberies (including car jackings) have occurred, our officers have demonstrated a strong track record of identifying offenders and bringing them to justice. An arrest already has been made in one of the cases from November, and our police continue to investigate the other robberies. In our respective roles as mayor and chief of police, we are in constant conversation on how to keep improving our strategic approach to crime prevention in Lakewood, and how to be proactive overall in our approach to safety.

It's important to note that our police force is fully staffed to patrol the city and perform follow up investigations. The number of officers is not a current concern, and we continue to bring in new officers to ensure that we maintain capacity as officers retire over time. This year, we also have made significant investments to provide additional and upgraded equipment to help officers. That includes gear like radios, flashlights, and vehicles, but also the 40 new cameras installed citywide that are crucial to prevention and investigation. We also take a holistic view on crime prevention, so part of our strategy in Lakewood includes the dollars we have dedicated to homelessness prevention (especially during the pandemic) – this is both a testament to the character of our community, but also helps reduce the number of those who turn to crime in our community.

We want to close by thanking those of you who have reached out to share your concerns and offer words of support. We understand and share your concerns and are committed to working together to continue keeping Lakewood safe.

Mayor Meghan F. George
Chief Kevin Kauchek

Upcoming Events & Updates



December 4 - Light Up Lakewood

The most joyous of Lakewood traditions is returning to Downtown Lakewood for the 15th annual celebration on Saturday, December 4 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. For event details, click [here](#).

December 6- Coffee with a Cop -Grab a cup of coffee and have a chat with members of the Lakewood Police Department on Monday, December 6 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Propaganda Coffee, 17806 Detroit Avenue.

Calendar of Events



Lakewood City Council Seeking Applicants for Vacant Ward 1 Council Seat

Lakewood City Council is seeking applicants for the Ward 1 seat soon to be vacated by Councilmember Tess Neff.

Councilmember Neff has been elected Municipal Court Judge and will soon be resigning from council to assume her new position. The candidate appointed to this council seat is expected to serve the remainder of the term, which expires December 31, 2023.

For more information, click [here](#).

Fall Leaf Collection Continues

The City of Lakewood began collecting leaves on November 1st, and will continue through Friday, December 10, 2021, weather permitting.

Leaves can also be placed in paper yard/leaf bags (no plastic bags) and set out on your regular refuse and recycling collection day. Limited bulk leaf collection may occur after December 10 if weather conditions warrant an extension of leaf collection. Due to the large volume of leaves on Clifton Boulevard and Lake Avenue, there will be additional pick-ups for those streets.

Residents should always place leaves out as soon as possible to ensure collection. The number of citywide collections will be weather

dependent. Our goal is to make at least three passes through the entire city.

For daily leaf collection schedule updates and more information, click [here](#).

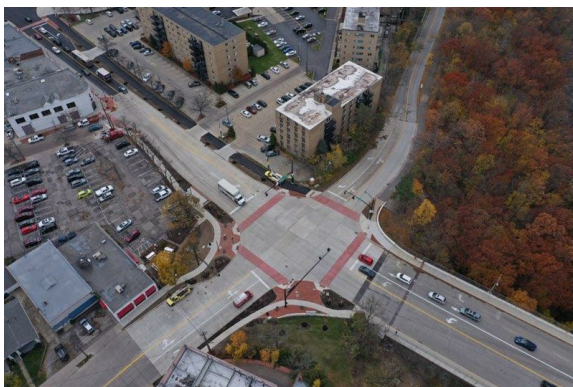


Picture Perfect Veterans Day Ceremony

It was a beautiful fall day for the annual Veterans Day ceremony at Lakewood Park. Hundreds gathered to honor veterans and hear from keynote speaker Sean S. Ennis.

Thank you to all our veterans for your courage, strength, and dedication to keeping us safe.

Detroit Sloane Improvement Project Near Completion



The City of Lakewood expects the Detroit Sloane improvement project to be fully completed before the end of December.

The work done will significantly improve pedestrian and cyclist safety at this high-use intersection which serves as a key gateway to both our city and the Rocky River Reservation.

The project also incorporated water and sewer upgrades to address compromised, century-old infrastructure while the street was torn up,

saving time and taxpayer dollars by completing the work simultaneously.

Construction Updates:

Lauderdale Avenue: Work continues on Lauderdale, with notices and electronic message boards being updated to keep residents up-to-date on the work being done.

Elbur Avenue: Crosswalks and ADA curb ramps are being worked on.

Leedale Avenue: Crosswalk at Leedale and Lake Avenue have been poured, and the ADA curb ramp will be replaced on the east side.

2021 Resurfacing Project: All of the planned work is complete as 2021 comes to a close. For more information on the 2021 street improvement projects, click [here](#).

The City of Lakewood is Hiring!

The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

- Full-Time Mechanic
- Entry Level Patrol Officer
- Lateral Entry Patrol Officer
- School Crossing Guard

For further details regarding all our job opportunities and to apply, please visit [here](#).



Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season:

Holiday decorating:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



Christmas Tree Safety:

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily. **LIGHTING**
- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Almost 1/3 of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems!
For more safety tips, click [here](#).